EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM GUIDE



Vandenberg Air Force Base

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The Purpose and Benefit of a Guide

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with a list of resources for families who have family members with special needs which you may find useful during your assignment to VAFB. Each resource contains a description of the program, who is eligible, what services are provided, how to contact service providers, and how to apply. We hope this guide will help you understand and navigate local systems serving individuals with special needs.

You are invited to contact the resource providers listed on the following pages. If you cannot find the appropriate resource or have a need that is beyond the scope of agencies listed, contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center staff at (805) 606-0039.

What Is the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)?

The Exceptional Family Member Program is a program for active duty service members who have family members with special needs. EFMP exists in all branches of the service. In the Air Force, EFMP services include a variety of personnel, medical, and family support functions. The EFMP serves two broad functions:

Personnel Enrollment and Assignment

- Identifies family members with special medical and/or educational needs
- · Documents the services they require
- Considers those needs during the personnel assignment process (especially when approving family members for accompanied travel to overseas locations)
- Involves the personnel and medical commands and the Department of Defense educational system overseas.

The Special Needs Identification Assignment Coordination process (SNIAC) provides medical information management support for EFMP enrollment functions, and coordinates relocations for families who have medical or educational needs.

Is Enrollment Mandatory?

Yes. "DOD policy mandates enrollment for all active duty personnel who have a family member with a special need."

II. Family Support

Family Support (EFMP-FS) is the community support function provided by the Airman and Family Readiness Centers (A&FRCs) that includes, but is not limited to, on-and off-base information and referral, relocation assistance, financial management, and school information. At VAFB, the staff at the Airman & Family Readiness Center works in collaboration to gather information for families and determine their need for services.

Both EFMP-FS and SNIAC work together with EFMP Assignments to provide comprehensive and coordinated medical, education, community support, assignment coordination as well as housing accommodation to families enrolled in the EFMP program.

Participation in the EFMP provides support to families by:

- Considering the needs of the exceptional family member for PCS assignments
- Helping to coordinate transfer of records
- Helping to coordinate local services
- Helping with systems navigation
- Providing local, state and national resources



Multidisciplinary Team Approach

VAFB provides access to an EFMP Multidisciplinary Team for families who have multiple and/or complex needs. VAFB's EFMP Team includes representatives from the Medical Group, Airman and Family Readiness, and as appropriate base services for families (e.g., youth services) and community-based services. Advocacy and support for families enrolled in the EFMP is available through this base, federal programs, public institutions, and local community resources. The EFMP Team meets to assure good communication among the various components of services your family needs, and assisting families with coordinating and accessing appropriate services on base and in the community. VAFB is committed to supporting families with a special needs member(s).

24/7 Support & Information

Santa Barbara County 24 Hour Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Hotline

 Description: Support for anyone who is feeling emotionally overwhelmed with life. This hotline is part of the 211 Helpline, Santa Barbara County operated by Family Service Santa Barbara County.

Phone Number: 211 or 1-800-400-1572 (for

mental health issues)

Military One Source (MOS)

• Description: A DoD sponsored information & referral resource for service members and their families, with 24 hour staff trained and available to handle urgent needs. As a no cost member of your military community support team, MOS offers three kinds of short-term, non-medical counseling options to active-duty, Guard, and Reserve members and their families. Counseling services are designed to provide service help with short-term issues such as adjustment to situational stressors, stress management, decision making, communication, grief, blended-family issues, and parenting-skills issues. Each eligible service member or family member may receive up to 12 sessions, per issues, per counselor at no cost.

Phone Number: 1-800-342-9647

Website: http://www.militaryonesource.com

Helpline (211)

 Description: Information & referral in Santa Barbara County, crisis intervention, human services assistance. Resources can be accessed by phone or on the website.

Phone Number: 211

Website: 211sbcounty. org

• E-Mail: 211sbcounty@fsacares.org

On-Base Services

Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC)

 Description: Core service areas are Information & Referral, School Liaison Officer (SLO), Family & Work Life Skills (FLS), Personal Financial Readiness Program (PFRP), Personal & Family Readiness Services (PFRS), Air Force Aid Society (AFAS), Career Focus Program (CFP), Relocation Assistance Program (RAP), Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Casualty Assistance Representative (CAR).

For a complete description of these services please visit our website or contact the A&FRC.

Location: 706 Washington Ave, Bldg 10122

Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437

Phone Number(s): (805) 606-0039; DSN: 276-0039

E-Mail: 30FSS/FSFR@vandenberg.af.mil

Website: http://30fss.com/fsfr.html

Eligibility: Members and family of Active

Duty, Reserve, Guard, DoD civilians, and military retirees

Hours: Monday – Friday 0800-1600;

closed weekends, federal holidays & third Thursday of every month

Air Force Aid Society Assistance

 Description: The official charity of the United States Air Force, incorporated in 1942 as a private, non-profit organization. The Air Force Aid Society has supported the Air Force mission by providing worldwide emergency assistance, sponsoring education assistance programs and offering an array of base community enhancement programs that improve quality of life for Airmen and their families.

Location: 706 Washington Ave, Vandenberg

AFB, CA 93437

Phone Number(s): (805) 606-0039; DSN: 276-0039

E-Mail: 30FSS/FSFR@vandenberg.af.mil

Websites: http://30fss.com/fsfr.html

http://www.afas.org

Visit the website or phone to get information on AFAS sponsored Respite Care and/or Give Parents a Break programs.

Eligibility: Active Duty, Reserve, Guard

and military retirees

Hours: Monday – Friday 0800-1600;

closed weekends, federal holidays & third Thursday of every month

Family Child Care Program

- Description: Core service areas are Family Child Care for children age 6 weeks to 12 years, this includes Mid/Swings care, Hourly care, Overnight care and Weekly care; based on availability. Family Child Care Program is fully inclusive and practices ability awareness of our special needs patrons.
- Location: Family Child Care, Bldg 7420
- Location Address: 7420 California & 10th St, VAFB CA 93437
- Phone Number(s): (805) 606-4639; DSN: 276-4639
- E-Mail: gwendolyn.jones@vandenberg.af.mil
- Website: http://www.30svs.com/fsff.html
- Eligibility: Members and family of Active

Duty, Reserve, Guard, DoD civilians, and military retirees

Hours: Providers set their own hours:

Monday-Friday; providers are closed on federal holidays

Child Development Program

 Description: The Child Development Center is dedicated to providing quality childcare for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. The CDC is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Location: Child Development Center

Location Address: Bldg. 16113 Summersill Ave,

VAFB CA 93437

Phone Number(s): (805) 606-1555; DSN: 276-1555

E-Mail: verna.brown@vandenberg.af.mil

Website: http://www.30svs.com/fsfc.html

Eligibility: Active Duty Military, DoD civilians,

Reserve, Guard, DoD approved contractors, military widows employed on Vandenberg

Hours: Monday-Friday 0630-1745, closed

federal holidays

Youth Programs

 Description: Core service areas are youth programs for children up to age 18, to include recreational programs, Teen Programs, School Age Child Care, Youth Sports and instructional programs. Youth Programs are fully inclusive and practice ability awareness of our special needs patrons.

Location Youth Center, Bldg 16170

 Location Address: 16170 Montana St, VAFB CA 93437

Phone Number (s): (805) 606-2152; DSN: 276-2152

E-Mail: Karen.cook@vandenberg.af.mil

Website: http://www.30svs.com/fsfy.html

Eligibility: Members and family of Active

Duty, Reserve, Guard, DoD

civilians, military retirees and DoD

contractors

Hours: Monday--Sat, closed federal

holidays. Call for hours of specific

programs

Special Needs Coordinator (SNC) and Family Member Relocation Coordinator

 Description: The SNC identifies sponsors whose family members have special needs for reassignment purposes; The SNC assists the Military Personnel Flight (MPF) in updating the Assignment Limitation Code Q assigned to the sponsor for the purpose of ensuring availability of medical / educational services upon PCS. The SNC provides avenues for families to connect with medical and educational programs with the goals of increasing family self-sufficiency and improving family self-advocacy skills.

Location: Behavioral Health Clinic.

30 Medical Group, Bldg 13850

Location Address: 338 S. Dakota Dr., Vandenberg

AFB, CA 93437

Phone Number: (805) 606-8217

Eligibility: Active Duty Members, family of

Active Duty, and DoD civilians

(who receive assignments

overseas)

Hours: Monday-Friday 0730-1630;

closed weekends, federal holidays & third Thursday of

every month

Family Member Relocation Clearance Coordinator (FMRCC)

 Description: The FMRCC provides active duty service members with necessary forms and a review of documentation prior to sending to gaining base or to interview with Special Needs Coordinator or Medical Director.

Location: Health Benefits Office,

30 Medical Group, Bldg 13850

Location Address: 338 S. Dakota Dr., Vandenberg

AFB, CA 93437

Phone Number (s): (805) 606-8624

DSN: 276-8624

Eligibility: Active Duty Members, family of

Active Duty, and DoD civilians

(who receive assignments

overseas)

Hours: Monday-Friday 0730-1630;

closed weekends, federal holidays & third Thursday of

every month

Tricare

 Description: Assists with all TRICARE needs, enrollments, referral, and claims. Also assists with enrollment to programs such as ECHO, Case Management, and Disease Management. For a complete list of programs and information visit the website or come to the local Tricare Service Center. ECHO is a limited services enhanced program that is only accessed by Active Duty Family Members who are identified at a qualifying level of disability.

Location: Service Center located on first

floor, 30th Medical Group, Bldg

13850

Location Address: 338 S. Dakota Dr., Vandenberg

AFB, CA 93437

Phone Number (s): No Local phone number; walk

in services only. TriWest (toll free) 1-888-TriWest (874-9378)

Website: http://www.TRIWEST.com

Hours: Monday-Friday 0730-1630;

closed weekends, federal holidays & third Thursday of

each month

Off-Base Services

About Special Education Services

Special education is a set of supports and services to help children with disabilities be successful in school. Students are eligible for special education if they have a qualifying disability and also require special education services to benefit from their education. The eligible conditions are:

- autism
- deaf-blindness
- emotional disturbance
- hearing impairment
- mental retardation
- multiple disabilities
- other health impaired
- specific learning disability
- speech or language impairment
- traumatic brain injury
- visual impairment
- established medical disability

Children with the above disabilities are entitled to a free and appropriate public education by federal law during their school years (3-22 years), and early intervention services (0-3 years of age) for children with or at-risk for disabilities. In California, early intervention services are coordinated by Regional Centers (part of the California Department of Developmental Services).

Special Education is governed by both federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004) and individual State Education Codes. States may vary how they provide special education as long as they are in compliance with IDEA 2004. This

means that special education can look very different from state to state. In California, state law (California Education Code) provides additional benefits to children needing special education.

To learn more about special education in California, refer to the excellent document prepared by California's Protection and Advocacy Agency, Disability Rights California, entitled Special Education Rights and Responsibilities.

http://disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/504001SpecEdIndex.htm

If you are new to special education, here are some important ideas and terms which may help you understand how the system works. Special education is provided by the Local Educational Agency (LEA). This is usually the local school district. The district that serves Vandenberg Air Force Base is the Lompoc Unified School District. Federal law requires that all schools districts provide the full range of special education services. This is provided in many ways, depending on the size of the student population and local resources. In California, smaller school districts collaborate with each other to offer the full range of services. They do this by forming Special Education Local Planning Areas (SELPAs). If a child needs services or supports that are not available in their local district, they can receive services or attend school in one of the partner districts.

Local POC: Special Education Local Planning Area of Santa Barbara (SELPA): A Joint Powers Agency

The SELPA that serves VAFB is the Santa Barbara County SELPA. It consists of 22 school districts and the County Office of Education.

Phone Number(s): (805) 683-1424

Eligibility: Students with special needs,

ages 3-22 years old.

About Local School Districts

Lompoc Unified School District

Location: 1301 North A. Street,

Lompoc, CA

Website: www.lusd.org

POC: Robert Altavilla, Administrator

Special Education

Email: altavilla.robert@lusd.orgPhone: (805) 742-3300 ext: 3301

Santa Barbara Elementary School Districts

Location: 720 Santa Barbara St.,

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

• Phone Number(s): (805) 963-4331

POC: Dr. Kerri Mills, Executive

Director, Special Education

Email: kmills@sbsdk12.orgPhone: (805) 963-4338, x 246

POC: Kirsten Escobedo, Special

Education Director, Elementary

Email: kescobedo@sbsdk12.org
 Phone: (805) 963-4338, x 332

Santa Barbara Secondary School District (7-12)

Location: 720 Santa Barbara St., Santa

Barbara, CA 93101

Phone Number(s): (805) 963-4331

POC: Dr. M. Britton Bass, Special

Education Director, Secondary

Email: mbrittonbass@sbsdk12.org

o Phone: (805) 963-4338, x248

Santa Maria-Bonita School District (K-8)

Location: 708 S. Miller Street

Santa Maria CA 93454

Phone Number(s): (805) 928-1783

POC: Emilie Koff-Martin, Special

Education Coordinator

Email: ekoff@smbsd.net

o Phone: (805) 928-1783, x 8180

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (9-12)

Location: 2560 Skyway Dr.,

Santa Maria, CA 93455

Phone Number(s): (805) 922-4573

• Fax: (805) 928-9916

POC: Tina M. Christen, Director of

Special Education

Email: tchristen@smjuhsd.orgPhone: (805) 922-4573 x 4221

About Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs)

Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) are a national system of parent run organizations with the mission of providing training and information to parents of children birth – age 22, who have any type of disability regarding special education. PTIs are staffed by parents who have experience with the special education system. The military arm of parent training and information centers is Specialized Training of Military Parents (STOMP). The core services of PTIs include:

- Workshops which cover:
 - Parent and student rights and responsibilities under IDEA
 - Individual Education Program (IEP)
 - o Transition to public school
 - Transition from school to adult life
 - Parent mentor training
 - o Awareness programs
- Parent-to-Parent Support
- Assistance and Advocacy for educational issues and other services (SSI, Respite, etc.)
- Support Groups
- Information and Referral
- Resource Library and Information Packets on a variety of topics including different types of disabilities
- Collectively the PTI's newsletters reach 55,000 readers in California and over 60,000 parents professionals contact the PTIs annually¹

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¹ California Department of Education, Division of Special Education

Local POC: TASK San Luis Obispo

Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK) is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to enable individuals with disabilities to reach their maximum potential by providing them, their families and the professionals who serve them with training, support, information, resources and referrals, and by providing community awareness programs. Initially, the primary focus was on children three to 21 years of age, but services evolved to include all ages, especially in the TASK Technology Center.

Phone Number(s): (866) 828-8275

(toll free in California)

(717) 533-8275

Email taskca@yahoo.com

Website: <u>www.taskca.org</u>

About Services for Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities

California has a state entitlement program for children and adults with the state definition of developmental disabilities. People must have a condition that began before their 18th birthday, are substantially handicapping, expected to be lifelong, and are caused by one of the following diagnostic categories:

- Autism
- Cerebral palsy
- Epilepsy
- Mental Retardation
- A disabling condition closely related to mental retardation or requiring similar treatment

A network of 21 independent non-profit agencies throughout California, called regional centers, provide service coordination, support, and a variety of services to eligible clients. Additionally, they provide the Early Start services to families with children birth – 3 who have or are at an established risk for a developmental disability.

Not everyone with a severe disability qualifies for regional center services. Although all states provide services for people with developmental disabilities, California has an unusually well-funded program for eligible clients, not available in other states.

<u>Local POC</u>: Tri-Counties Regional Center

The Regional Center that serves families assigned to VAFB is Tri-Counties Regional Center

Location: 1234 Fairway Dr, Ste A,

Santa Maria, CA

Phone Number: (805) 922-4640

Email tcrcweb@tri-counties.org

Website: <u>www.tri-counties.org</u>

About California Child Services (CCS)

California Children Services: CCS is a part of the California Department of Health Services in the Children's Medical Service Branch. CCS medical care to children who are at risk for or who have serious, chronic and disabling physical conditions or diseases, including:

- Infectious diseases
- Cancers and tumors
- Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immune disorders
- Congenital anomalies
- Perinatal morbidity and mortality
- Accidents, poisonings, violence and immunization reactions and
- Diseases
 - Blood and blood forming organs
 - Nervous system
 - Eye
 - o Ear
 - o Circulatory system
 - Respiratory system
 - Digestive system
 - Genitourinary system
 - Skin and subcutaneous tissues

CCS can also provide:

- Diagnosis of a CCS eligible condition
- Medical Therapy Program
- Occupational and Physical Therapy
- High Risk Infant Follow-Up

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Local POC: The Santa Barbara County CCS Program

The CCS program that serves VAFB is The Santa Barbara County CCS Program.

Location: 345 Camino Del Remedio

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Phone Number: (805) 681-5360

Website:

http://www.countyofsb.org/phd/childrensmedsvc.as px?id=20346&pghead=20336&footer=20986

Eligibility: Anyone can refer a child to

CCS; but CCS will require

medical reports and

prescriptions for care from a physician in order to determine eligibility and authorize services

About Family Resource Centers

In California, parent-to-parent education referral and support is offered through 47 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) throughout the state. All FRCs serve children with or at risk for disabilities ages 0-3. Some FRCs in the state serve school-age children and youth and a few serve adults with developmental disabilities.

<u>Local POC</u>: Alpha Resource Center (Family First Program)

The Alpha Resource Center (ARC) of Santa Barbara serves EFMP families at VAFB through Family First Program in Santa Maria, CA. They provide family support, resource information, referral and technical assistance. Polly Blevins, the North County Resource Coordinator, has special training to work with military families. Additionally Alpha Resource Center serves as a representative for Family Voices of California, a resource network for families of children with special healthcare needs. It is also the local chapter of the ARC of California, a family support and advocacy organization for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

 Location Address: 1234-A Fairway Dr, Santa Maria. CA

Phone Number (s): (805) 347-2775

Email: pbleavins@alphasb.org pollvforkids@hotmail.com

Website: <u>www.alphasb.org</u>

Eligibility: Santa Barbara County families

whose children have disabilities or are at risk of developmental

delay

About Advocacy Programs

Disability Rights California

Disability Rights CA is a federally funded legal watchdog group for people with disabilities. It is part of the national protection and advocacy network. Their mission is to advance the rights of Californians with disabilities. People with disabilities have the right to family, social, and intimate relationships. They can be financially secure, can make life choices, and have opportunities for satisfying work, recreation, spiritual lives, and community service. DRC provides information and training about legal rights related to disability. They also provide some direct legal/advocacy services as well as legislative advocacy.

Location: Throughout Santa Barbara

County

Phone Number(s): Toll Free (800) 776-5746

TTY 800.719.5798

Email info@disabilityrightsca.org

Website: http://www.disabilityrightsca.org

Eligibility: Disability Rights CA serves

people of any age with developmental, psychiatric, physical, learning and/or

sensory disabilities

About State Council for Developmental Disabilities Area Board

Area Boards on Developmental Disabilities are a service unique to California, and were created in 1969 in the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act to plan, coordinate, and develop services for persons with developmental disabilities. Currently they are administered through the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. There are 13 area boards in California and their primary responsibility is to:

- protect and advocate the rights of persons with developmental disabilities
- conduct or cause to be conducted information programs to increase public and professional awareness and eliminate barriers to integration
- monitor the practices of publicly funded agencies for compliance with local, state and federal laws and pursue remedies of any noncompliance with such laws
- conduct activities designed to improve the quality of services, including the conduct of Life Quality Assessments
- promote and support the participation of primary consumers in all levels of the system
- plan, coordinate, and develop new and expanded program opportunities

Through this mandate, Area Boards provide parent support in several ways. Through their advocacy role, families can enlist help with concern with the regional center system (or any of the other systems that serve their family). Area boards also provide training for

families to help them understand better access services and supports.

Local POC: Area Board 9

The Area Board that serves VAFB is Area Board 9

Address: 200 East Santa Clara Street,

Suite 210, Ventura, CA 93001

Phone Number(s): (805) 648-0220

• Email: ab9@scdd.ca.gov

• Website: <u>www.areaboard9.org</u>

About Disability Specific Organizations

American Cancer Society

 Description: Offers services at no charge to cancer patients including transportation, support groups and information.

Location Address: 604 E. Ocean, Ste A,

Lompoc, CA

Phone Number: (805) 736-2610 (24 hr hotline)

Autism Society of America-Santa Barbara Chapter

 Description: Promotes lifelong access and opportunity for all individuals within the autism spectrum and their families, to be fully participating, included members of their community. Support education, advocacy and active public awareness form the cornerstones of ASA Santa Barbara's efforts.

Site: Autism Society of America-

Santa Barbara Chapter

Site Address: 505 East Montecito Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93103

• Phone: (805) 560-3762

Email: info@asasb.org

Website: <u>www.asasb.org</u>

National Alliance for the Mentally III (NAMI)

 Description: This is a national organization for people with mental illness and their families. Provides advocacy, support and education regarding biological schizophrenia, obsessivecompulsive disorder; Tourette's Syndrome, posttraumatic stress disorder and other similar illnesses.

Also bipolar disorder and depression.

Address: 1010 Hurley Way, Suite 195

Sacramento, CA 95825

Phone: (916) 567-0163

Email: support@namicalifornia.org

Website: <u>www.namicalifornia.org</u>

Local POC: NAMI Lompoc

Phone Number (805) 737-5870

Email: lompocnami@hotmail.com

• Website: http://www.namicalifornia.org/affiliates-detail.aspx?idno=63&lang=ENG&cnty=Santa%20Barbara

United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara County

 Description: The UCP family provides information, advocacy and direct services to children and adults with cerebral palsy and other disabilities including assistive technology training early intervention services individual and family support services social and recreation programs.

In addition, UCP provides supported living services, employment, information and referral services, legislative advocacy, technology initiatives and research and we have been doing gratefully for nearly 6 decades

Phone Number: (818) 782-2211

Email: mail@ucpla.org

Website: http://www.ucpla.org/index.php

About Community Agencies

First S.T.E.P (Screening, Training, Education Project)

 Description: First STEP is a program through the Koegel Autism Center at UCSB. It provides training for parents and providers about autism. It also offers free autism screening for children under six years of age. Family support is provided for all families who participate in the screenings through information, referrals, and short-term intervention services.

Location Address: Throughout Santa Barbara

County

Phone Number: (805) 893-2049

Email: firststep@education.ucsb.edu

 Website: http://www.education.ucsb.edu/autism/firststep.html

Eligibility: Santa Barbara County families

with children under age 6yrs

Internet Resources

Air Force Special Needs Website:

http://www.afcrossroads.com/education/k12_special.cf m

From Emotions to Advocacy: www.fetaweb.com

Internet Resources for Special Children: www.irsc.org

Military Child Education Coalition: www.militarychild.org

Military Home Front: www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil

Military One Source: www.militaryonesource.com

National Dissemination Center for Children with

Disabilities (NICHCY): www.nichcy.org

Social Security Supplemental Income (SSI): Based on eligibility requirement, families may apply via website www.socialsecurity.gov

Special Education Laws: www.wrightslaw.com

Specialized Training of Military Parents (STOMP): www.stompproject.org

How to Contact Us

Contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center staff with concerns and/or questions regarding special needs family members by phoning (805) 606-0039 or visiting 706 Washington Avenue (Building 10122), Vandenberg AFB, CA.

Notes:

